

REMARKS

In the final Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26, 28, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; rejected claims 1-4, 8, 9, 12-15, 19-22, 25, 26, 28, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,865 to Howard et al. ("*Howard*"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0154180 A1 to Case et al. ("*Case*"), U.S. Patent No. 7,003,546 B1 to Cheah ("*Cheah*"), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0047293 to Waller et al. ("*Waller*"); and rejected claims 5-7, 10, 11, 16-18, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, *Waller*, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0138331 to Hosea et al. ("*Hosea*").

By the present amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, 23-26, and added new claims 35 and 36. Exemplary support for the new claims and the claim amendments may be found at the specification and figures as originally filed, including the specification at paragraphs [0020], [0027], [0033], [0034], [0036], [0049], and [0050]. Claims 1-26, 28, 30, 32, and 34-36 are now pending.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-26, 28, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-26, 28, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action states that claims 1, 14, 25, and 26 contain subject matter which was not described in the specification. Office Action, pages 2 and 3. Even though Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 14,

¹ The Office Action may contain statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

25, and 26 to overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Applicant asserts that “[t]here is no requirement that the words in the claim must match those used in the specification disclosure. Applicants are given a great deal of latitude in how they choose to define their invention so long as the terms and phrases used define the invention with a reasonable degree of clarity and precision.” See *M.P.E.P.* § 2173.05(e), 8th Ed., Rev. 6 (Sept. 2007).

The MPEP further states:

Any analysis of whether a particular claim is supported by the disclosure in an application requires a determination of whether that disclosure, when filed, contained sufficient information regarding the subject matter of the claims as to enable one skilled in the pertinent art to make and use the claimed invention. See *M.P.E.P.* § 2106.04.

The specification discloses, for example:

The identity inspector 110 is a tool that enables users to watch, edit, monitor their personal profiles. The **identity inspector page** may include an overview about **all context metadata available** for that user. The user may use the identity inspector to maintain explicit terms and business activities in the user's context cluster. The identity inspector may also provide filtered views by explicit, implicit, and inherited context metadata. The user object may be updated on occasion. If new profile elements are found, the user will be notified. The user may then use the **identity inspector to decide whether to update the profile as proposed, change it, or add other information**. Also, an automatic decay function may be used to delete context metadata relating to unused relationships. There may be slower decay times for attributes that reach a certain level of relevance for a given user. (Emphasis added, paragraphs [0036] and [0037]).

As noted above there is no requirement that the words in the claim must match those used in the specification disclosure, and Applicant asserts that, in view of at least the above quoted passages of the originally-filed application, one skilled in the pertinent

art would have been enabled to make and use the claimed invention in which an identity inspector may be used to update a profile by using and/or changing new information.

Thus, independent claims 1, 14, 25, and 26, and their dependent claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-26, 28, 30, 32, and 34, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 12-15, 19-22, 25, 16, 28, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-4, 8, 9, 12-15, 19-22, 25, 16, 28, 30, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of *Howard, Case, Cheah, and Waller*. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

The key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is the clear articulation of the reason(s) why the claimed invention would have been obvious. Such an analysis should be made explicit and cannot be premised upon mere conclusory statements. See *M.P.E.P. § 2142, 8th Ed., Rev. 6 (Sept. 2007)*. “A conclusion of obviousness requires that the reference(s) relied upon be enabling in that it put the public in possession of the claimed invention.” *M.P.E.P. § 2145*. Furthermore, “[t]he mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the results would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art” at the time the invention was made. *M.P.E.P. § 2143.01(III), internal citation omitted*.

“[T]he framework for objective analysis for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is stated in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 U.S.P.Q 459 (1966) The factual inquiries . . . [include determining the scope and content of the prior art and] . . . [a]scertaining the difference between the claimed invention and the prior art.” *M.P.E.P.* § 2141(II).

Independent claim 1 recites a method including, among other steps,

- providing an initial list including entity profiles corresponding to one or more entities related to the user;
- refining the initial list based on a refining attribute to select an entity profile from the entity profiles included in the initial list;
- [and]
- associating at least a portion of the context information from the selected entity profile.

Combinations of *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, and *Waller* fail to teach or suggest at least these features of claim 1.

Howard discloses, in relevant part:

[A] permission (the “perform permission”) gives a user the right to perform a specific function offered by a portal application. As suggested in the example shown in FIG. 2, the grant right of a permission (the “grant permission”) gives a user the right to grant to other users the perform permission and the grant permission with respect to the application functionality associated with the permission. The grant and perform permissions are represented by flags in the profiles stored in the portal management database. As shown in FIG. 2, user A's grant permission 100 enables user A to grant perform permission 102 to user B. (Col. 7, lines 43-53).

Thus, in *Howard*, user profiles are given permissions based on the permissions assigned to the user's company. As stated above, these permissions are given by enabling flags in user profiles. Such a disclosure, however, does not teach or even

suggest “providing an initial list including entity profiles,” “refining the initial list based on a refining attribute to select an entity profile,” and “associating at least a portion of the context information from the selected entity profile,” as recited in claim 1. This is because *Howard* merely gives permissions by enabling flags based on flags in a company profile but does not associate “at least a portion of the context information from the selected entity profile,” after the entity profile is selected by “providing an **initial list** including entity profiles” and “**refining the initial list** based on a **refining attribute** to select an entity profile,” (emphasis added) as recited in claim 1. Enabling flags in a user profile to grant permission to a user simply does not constitute providing a list of entity profile, refining the list to select an entity profile, and “associating at least a portion of the context information **from the selected entity profile**,” (emphasis added) as recited in claim 1.

Case, *Cheah*, and *Waller* do not overcome any of the above-noted deficiencies of *Howard* and do not teach or suggest “providing an initial list including entity profiles,” “refining the initial list based on a refining attribute to select an entity profile,” and “associating at least a portion of the context information from the selected entity profile,” as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, combinations of *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, and *Waller* do not teach or suggest “receiving an instruction to perform a collaborative task defined in the workset of the user, wherein the collaborative task is performed by collaborating with another user in the work environment, the collaboration and the collaborative task being performed by using a portion of the context information included in the user profile; and

tracking progress of the task by implementing a dashboard in the user profile indicating whether a milestone associated with the task is complete,” as further recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, the Office Action has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 14, 25, and 26, while of different scope than claim 1, recite elements similar to those of claim 1 and are thus allowable over *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, and *Waller* for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in regard to claim 1. The remaining claims rejected as being obvious over in view of *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, and *Waller* are also allowable at least due to their dependence from one of the independent claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested and deemed appropriate.

III. Rejection of Claims 5-7, 10, 11, 16-18, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 5-7, 10, 11, 16-18, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, *Waller*, and *Hosea*, because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Claims 5-7, 10, 11, 16-18, 23, and 24 depend from one of independent claims 1 or 14. *Hosea* fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, and *Waller* with respect to independent claims 1 and 14. Consequently, any proper combination of *Howard*, *Case*, *Cheah*, *Waller*, and *Hosea* does not present a *prima*

facie case of obviousness with respect to claims 1 and 14, and therefore dependent claims 5-7, 10, 11, 16-18, 23, and 24 are allowable.

Accordingly, for at least the above-noted reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. New Claims 35 and 36

New claims 35 and 36 are also allowable due their dependency on one of independent claims 1 and 14, and further due to the features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

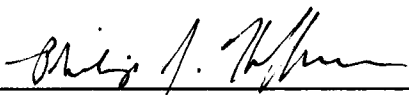
In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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